

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 23, 2023**

The meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in person on Monday, January 23, 2023 at Mt. Hope High School in the Cafeteria located at 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI 02809.

Present: Nicky Piper, Chairperson; Adam McGovern, Vice Chairperson; Jessica Almeida, Treasurer; Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary; Kyle Jackson, Marjorie McBride, Carly Reich, and Sarah Bullard; Ana Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Diane Sanna, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Colwell, Director of Student Support Services; Frank Caliri, Facilities Director; Mary Ann Carroll, Esq., District Solicitor.

Absent: Karen Cabral

**I. OPEN SESSION**

Chairperson Nicky Piper called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.

**II. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Piper invited all present to stand to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no requests for Public Comment.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Piper asked if any member of the School Committee wanted to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. Seeing no requests, she asked for a motion to approve all items under the Consent Agenda.

- A. Approve and Seal Executive Session Minutes from January 9, 2023 meeting
- B. Minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting
- C. Minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting
- D. School Property Disposal
- E. Bristol Rotary Charity Foundation Donation to Colt Andrews Elementary School
- F. Bristol Rotary Charity Foundation Donation to Guiteras Elementary School

**MOTION:** Ms. McBride made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau.

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VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously.

**V. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

**A. MHHS Program of Studies as recommended by Superintendent Riley and Principal King**

Superintendent Riley introduced Michelle King, MHHS Principal, who provided the committee with an overview of the updates and changes made to the Program of Studies (PoS). Superintendent Riley explained that the document is still a draft and has not had a final review for formatting and other edits.

Ms King started her presentation by stating that the review process of the Program of Studies is grounded in ensuring that MHHS provides all students with the ability to meet all of the new secondary regulations while still providing the greatest flexibility in scheduling and maximizing student choice.

Ms. King provided a high-level view of the State's Secondary Regulations, ensuring proficiency in Math & ELA, the Diploma System, and supports for Students and their ILPs.

Ms King reviewed the 2024 revisions for graduation requirements and meeting proficiency on the State assessments. The new PoS will include anticipated changes to assessments that will begin with the class of 2025, including Civics and Financial Literacy, expanded SAT preparation courses, and the addition of the PSAT for freshman, starting with the class of 2027.

Additional changes include the review of current elective options for Ceramics & Guitar, removal of the prerequisites for Art coursework, and the phasing out of Theater/Acting coursework. Superintendent Riley added that the phasing out of Theater/Acting was due to low enrollments in these classes and that she hopes that by building the program at the Middle School level, will lead to a higher demand for these courses when current middle school students reach the high school level.

Superintendent Riley added that the plan is to align Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) from grades 6-12, which could lead to some Middle School credits going toward graduation requirements.

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**DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Thibaudeau asked if the Planning Center and Resources are still there? Superintendent Riley stated that the courses are still there, but not for credits. Ms. King further explained that since the Special Needs courses do not follow standards, there can be no credits for them. She added that current students in grades 10-12, will still get credits.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked about the Pathways and if they were all listed. Ms. King responded that two are not listed because they have not yet met all CTE credentials.

Ms. Reich asked about Individual Learning Plans being online. Assistant Superintendent Sanna responded that the District is in the process of evaluating vendors.

Ms. Reich asked about the Art requirement. Superintendent Riley stated that the change to remove the prerequisites for Art classes will provide more opportunities for students to just take the course(s) that interest them..

Ms. Bullard asked about the theater program. She is hoping that the Superintendent's plan to rebuild the program starting with the middle school, will really happen. Superintendent Riley reiterated that growing the KMS program is necessary to grow the program at the HS.

Ms. Boyle, Theater teacher at MHHS, added that her students are excited to help with the recruiting at the MS. She added that there are lots of different reasons why the program has slowed down in recent years, specifically COVID restrictions and changes in staff.

Ms. Thibaudeau asked about enrollments in CTE programs. Superintendent Riley promised to share the information with the Committee.

**MOTION:** Ms. Thibaudeau made a motion to adopt the Program of Studies as presented; seconded by Ms. McBride.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved with a vote of 4-3. Mr. Jackson, Ms. Piper, and Ms. Bullard voted in dissent and Ms. Reich abstained.

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**VI. PRESENTATION BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S ATTORNEY**

**A. Review of Regulations for School Committee Members**

Attorney Mary Ann Carroll facilitated a presentation of a review of the regulations for School Committee Members.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ms Bullard. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Thibaudeau. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tara Thibaudeau, Secretary /dbc